

HOUSE RESOLUTION 16

By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James Baker, M.D. for his outstanding medical career and his well-deserved acclaim as the recipient of the 2002 Visionary Award.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens and philanthropists who have distinguished themselves as exemplary medical professionals, diligently working to improve the health of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Dr. James Baker, the recipient of the 2002 Visionary Award for his unparalleled achievements in medicine and for his indisputable leadership as a physician, surgeon, and administrator; and

WHEREAS, One of twelve children, Dr. Baker learned very early on in life the value of family, education, strong character, community service, upright Christian living, and a healthy work ethic, values by which he has lived his life in serving the people of Tennessee; his parents, both of whom were educators, were instrumental in Dr. James Baker's development into the masterful physician, caring philanthropist, and loving family man that he is today; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati, Dr. Baker attended Johns Hopkins University on a Beneficial-Hodson Scholarship, earned his M.D. at the University of Cincinnati, and completed his residency in Chicago; following a Fellowship in

Colon and Rectal Surgery at Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, Dr. Baker was the deserving recipient of the prestigious Harry E. Bacon Foundation Award for his outstanding paper which he presented at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baker was heavily recruited by many hospitals but elected to practice at Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee; as the Chair of the Physician Division of Campaign Baptist, he is deeply committed to improving health care at both Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee and the new hospital in West Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Baker's compassion for and remarkable dedication to his patients' welfare are very important components of what makes him an extraordinary physician and surgeon; to ease his patients' distress and discomfort, Dr. Baker has pioneered and perfected several new surgical procedures and prostheses to help them live normal and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Baker's medical leadership is indisputable; he served as Chief of Medical Staff at Baptist Hospital in 2000 and is currently Chairman of both the Medical Staff Bylaws and Credentials Committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Baker is a loving father and husband; he married Lori Ann Meyer in November, 1989, and they have three beautiful children: Corinne, Camille, and Colin; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his exemplary service as a physician, Dr. Baker still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to the Baptist Health System Foundation; both he and Lori participate in the "Labor of Love" Tennis Classic to raise much-needed funds for Baptist's programs and services; and

WHEREAS, James Baker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, as he touches the lives of thousands with the gentle hand of a healer and the giving heart of a leader; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. James Baker for receiving the Visionary Award and for providing exemplary medical care for the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. James Baker, the recipient of the 2002 Visionary Award. His unabashed commitment to providing outstanding health care, his gentleness, his leadership, and his innovation are all part and parcel of his stature as a gifted physician, visionary philanthropist, and loving family man. We extend to him our best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.